

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-17, 25-28, 30-34, 36-41, and 50-51 are currently pending and subject to examination. Claims 18-22 and 42-46 were previously withdrawn. By the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 10, 12, 17, 25, 34, 36, 41, and 50 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims have support in the specification, such as at page 43, lines 21-24, page 47, lines 13-14. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action mailed July 11, 2007, Claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, 17, 23-26, 28, 30-34, 41, and 47-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,298,441 to Handelsman et al. ("Handelman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,667 to Duga et al. ("Duga"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,754 to Knauff et al. ("Knauff"). Claims 3 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Handelsman in view of Duga in further view of Knauff and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,384 to Block et al. ("Block"). Claims 50-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,761,681 to Huffman et al. ("Huffman") in view of Handelsman, Duga, and Knauff. Claims 12-16 and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Handelsman in view of Duga, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,249,785 to Paepke and U.S. Patent No. 6,279,017 to Walker. It is noted that claims 1, 10, 12, 17, 25, 34, 36, 41, and 50 have been amended. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejection, as follows.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1, 10, 17, 25, 34, and 41, the Examiner admitted that Handelman does not "receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit," and "inserting cross-reference to the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in a header portion of the first restricted version of the electronic book," as recited in Claim 1. The Examiner, however, alleged that Duga and Kanuft cure the deficiency of Handelman. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Applicants respectfully submits that nothing in the cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer that comprises at least the combination of features of receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit, displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer, receiving identification information from a user, wherein the identification or title of an electronic book is displayed based on the identification information from the user, receiving information on whether the electronic book contains a restriction based on at least one selected from the group consisting of content, a rating, an associated access level, a page order based restriction, and a time based restriction; wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book; and if the electronic book contains at least one restriction, receiving information on whether the restriction applies to the identified user, restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information, saving a first restricted version of the electronic book in the library unit including the original format of the electronic book, creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting predetermined content, saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic

book in the library unit, and inserting a cross-reference to the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the header portion of the first restricted version of the electronic book, as recited in Claim 1, as amended.

In Handelman, as cited by the Examiner, a physical parent card enables decryption of restricted programs in the presence of the main card (Handelman, col. 8, lines 3-9). Duga, on the other hand, deals with converting byte-ordering of a data structure of a resource type from a first format to a second format (See Duga, the Abstract). Knauft allows insert one or more words into a header portion of an electronic document (Knauft, col. 16, lines 54-56). None of these references, when taken singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the combination of the features of Claim 1, as amended.

Therefore, Claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited art.

For similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 10, 17, 25, and 41 are also allowable over the cited art.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 50 and 51, the Applicants respectfully submit that none of Huffman, Duga, Handelman, and Knauft, when taken singly or in combination thereof, teaches or suggests at least the combination of features of displaying a screen with the index having the electronic book on a viewer, wherein the index is displayed based on identification information received from a user; displaying a section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction of the identified content, wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book, and inserting a cross reference between the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version

and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book, and saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit, as recited in Claim 50, as amended.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 50, as amended, is allowable over the cited art. For similar reasons, Claim 51, as amended, is likewise allowable over the cited art.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 12 and 36, the Applicants respectfully submit that Paepke and Walker fails to cure the deficiency of Handelman and Duga, and thus none of the cited art, when taken singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least the combination of features of storing and indexing a plurality of electronic books in a library unit, displaying a directory of the plurality of electronic books on a viewer, wherein the directory of the plurality of electronic books is displayed based on identification information received from a user, permitting a particular user to assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books, assign an access level restriction to a potential user, assign a page order based restriction to each of the electronic books, and assign a time based restriction to each of the electronic books, wherein each page of the electronic book must be displayed for a predetermined period of time, and restricting access by the potential user ~~other-users~~ to the electronic books based upon the assigned ratings and the assigned access level, as recited in Claim 12, as amended.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 12, as amended, is allowable over the cited art. Similarly, Claim 36, as amended, is likewise allowable over the cited art.

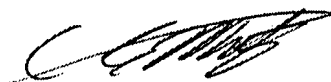
As Claims 1, 10, 12, 17, 25, 34, 36, 41, 50 and 51, as amended, are allowable, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4, 6-9, 13-16, 26-28, 30-33, and 37-40 are also allowable for the reasons stated above and at least due to their dependencies from allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into allowable form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, with reference to Attorney Docket No. 026680-00029.

Respectfully submitted,
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